

State Representative

Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle)

11th Legislative District

Includes parts of South Seattle, Burien, SeaTac, Tukwila, Renton,
and unincorporated King County around these cities



2008 Session Wrap

Spring, 2008

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Standing House Committees:

- Finance, *Vice Chair*
- Capital Budget
- Higher Education

Joint Legislative Committees:

- Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee, *Chair*
- Legislative Committee on Economic Development & International Relations

National Conference of State Legislatures:

- Committees on Communications; Financial Services and Interstate Commerce

Be sure to visit my website at www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/hasegawa where you'll find information on issues that matter to our community.



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(hasegawa.bob@leg.wa.gov)
so I can add you to our e-newsletter list and
save on postage, paper and printing costs.

Dear Friends,

I'm glad to be back home after a very fast-paced "short" (60-day) legislative session.

Inside this newsletter you'll find information on some of the issues we tackled but first, I'd like to share what I learned about what **you** believe is best for our state. You'll remember I sent out a legislative survey in January; the responses are back and they are enlightening and reaffirming.

Regarding education, 80 percent of you agree that the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) should not be the sole graduation requirement. As I've talked about in previous newsletters, I feel this test is unfair and it does not teach us how to fix the education system so that all kids have a fair shot at the best education possible. So I've been working on ways to improve our education system since you first sent me to Olympia.

As far as health care goes, 74 percent of you think our state should create a system that covers everyone. I couldn't agree more, and every session I have consistently sponsored/supported bills that bring us closer to that goal.

When it comes to the economic state of our state, most people in our district feel the same way; **a whopping 92 percent of you** would like closer scrutiny of corporate tax breaks and new ways to support and promote small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy. And 82 percent of you believe Washington State should have a less regressive and fairer tax system. Many of you hand-wrote comments citing a progressive income tax along with reduction in sales tax and elimination of B&O tax on businesses as the solution equation.

And lastly, on the issue of upholding the United States Constitution, 72 percent of you said our state should call upon Congress to initiate the impeachment process for President Bush and Vice President Cheney.

You can see from your responses that even though ours is a very diverse district, most of us share similar views on what is best for Washington State. I really want to thank you for sending me your responses to my survey. Hearing from you helps me represent you better, and that is a privilege I take very seriously. To continue our ongoing dialogue, I hope you will come to my Town Hall meeting on May 14. The details are below.

I hope you find this newsletter useful. Please know that since I'm restricted to four pages, I can't write about everything we did, so if you need additional information on the issues covered here or on any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 206/587.5554. Although this session was only 60 days, don't forget that I am your representative year-round.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bob Hasegawa". The signature is fluid and cursive.



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K-12, Higher Education, and Workforce Training/Development

This session we passed several bills that specifically address the issue of helping kids graduate, and then continue on to further education. Highlights include:

- **Revising Math Standards** (SB 6534) that will align with the skills and knowledge students need in today's complex world.
- **Exploring the creation of an on-line Math Curriculum** (HB 2598) for grades K-12 that will be aligned to the new state mathematics learning standards.



- **Improving the WASL** (HB 3166) by shortening the test and creating an end-of-course assessment in Algebra I and Geometry, and Integrated Math I & II.
- **Expanding student learning opportunities** (SB 6673) for high schools students who are at risk of not graduating.
- **Enhancing Career & Technical Education** (SB 6377) in secondary schools and setting the vision for the future of CTE programs by addressing improvements, enhancing funding, and providing incentives.
- **Providing child-care grants** (HB 2582) so that parents of young children can attend college.
- **\$12.7 million in new capital improvements** for universities and community and technical colleges.

IMPORTANT K-12 EDUCATION BUDGET INVESTMENTS

Student Learning Opportunities	\$26.9 million
Increased WASL Funding.....	\$14.6 million
Increase for books and technology.....	\$6.5 million
School Library Allocation.....	\$4.0 million
Classified Staff Ratio Reduction	\$3.1. million
Achievement Gap Taskforces	\$750,000
Local Farms & Health Kids	\$600,000
Math Standards Review	\$300,000
Integrated English Language Learner and Skills Training	\$250,000
Criminal Street Gangs Initiative	\$180,000
Bilingual Educator Program.....	\$150,000
World Language Coordinator Position at OSPI	\$136,000
Standards Board Workgroup on English Language Learners.....	\$67,000

Need \$ help for college?

I've heard from many of you that college just isn't an option due to financial constraints, but there are numerous financial aid and scholarship opportunities out there that you should explore. Even if you're a part-time student taking only one class, you're still eligible for state need grant money on accordance with HB 1139, which I passed last year, provided you meet the other requirements. I've compiled a little information on some of the programs available in Washington State:

- **State Need Grant:** Helps low-income undergraduate students at public colleges and universities, and many accredited independent colleges, universities, and career schools. Also helps part-time students.
- **State Work Study:** Helps students earn money for college while gaining valuable job experience.
- **Opportunity Grant Program:** Provides support services and financial aid to low-income individuals. Eligible students may receive tuition, fees, books, tools and supplies for up to 45 college credits.



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- **GET Ready for Math and Science Scholarship:** A four-year scholarship for high achievers in math and science to attend college and major in a qualified math or science program.
- **College Bound Scholarship:** A four-year scholarship that covers the cost of tuition, fees and books for low-income students who sign a pledge in 7th or 8th grade promising to graduate from high school and demonstrate good citizenship.
- **Passport to College Promise Program:** A scholarship program for foster youth to help pay a student's tuition and living expenses for up to five years of college.

For a more complete list (with information on eligibility) go here:
<http://www.hecb.wa.gov/paying/waaidprgm/waaidprgmindex.asp>



South Seattle Community College

Capital Budget projects for the 11th Legislative District

2008 Supplemental Capital Budget additions:

- Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center (LCP) (part of South Seattle Community College at the Duwamish Industrial Training Ctr. i.e. the old Hat & Boots site).....\$1,000,000
 - Petrovitsky Park Upgrade (LCP).....\$100,000
 - Seattle Crime Lab Expansion.....\$734,000
 - Aviation High School (at the Museum of Flight, BFI).....\$1,175,000
 - Duwamish Garden estuary restoration (Puget Sound Initiative-Nearshore Salmon Restoration).....\$300,000
-
- **2007-2009 Biennium: Total Capital Budget funds for the 11th District.....\$13,513,100**



Museum of flight

Housing Security

This session we passed several bills to help folks keep their homes, these are some of them:

- **The Subprime Lending Reform** (HB 2770) will end certain bad mortgage products, like negative amortization loans for subprime borrowers, and will also require better disclosure to homebuyers.
- **The mortgage scams bill** (HB 2791) will help prevent scam artists from preying on people at risk of losing their homes and the equity they have worked hard to build up.
- **The Pre and Post-Purchase Counseling bill** (SB 6272) will provide \$1.5 million for counseling and information to help families make good loan decisions and avoid financial disaster from loans they cannot afford.

Other Supplemental Capital Budget highlights for projects state-wide include \$100 million for Skills Centers, an additional \$70 million for the Housing Trust Fund to support low-income housing development, and the creation of the Community Building Fund.

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Small Businesses

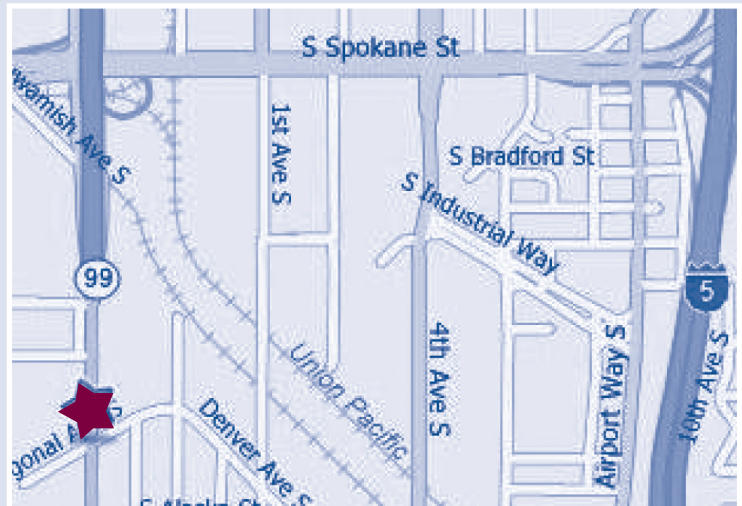
- Last year I was able to increase the amount of funds for the Linked Deposit Loan Program (LDP) from \$100 million to \$150 million to give women and minority-owned businesses more access to capital. This session I picked-up the issue again by sponsoring **HB 3360** and secured an additional \$25 million for women and minority-owned businesses (for information on eligibility, go to: <http://www.omwbe.wa.gov/ldp/>), plus \$15 million for a new LDP for veteran-owned businesses (since it is new, please call my office for more information).

- I also co-sponsored **HB 2537**, which helps small businesses offer affordable health care for their employees through a partnership with the state. It expands access to the Health Insurance Partnership, which we passed last year.
- I supported legislation (**HB 2560**) to allow more small businesses to be eligible for group health care plans, which are generally less expensive than individual plans. This bill will make it easier for small employers to purchase health coverage.

If you're starting a business or having trouble with your small business, go ahead and give my office a call; we may be able to help you find appropriate help.

**Come to my
Town Hall meeting
to discuss everything we
did this session in Olympia.**

Date: Wed, May 14, 2008
Time: 600pm-8:00pm
Place: Liquor Control Board
4401 E Marginal Way S
Seattle, WA 98168



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**2008
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Wrap**

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State Representative

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